

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03735 251311Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 USIA-15 /033 W

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R 231515Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4687

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 3735

USDOC FOR CAGNE

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SY

SUBJ: PROPOSED IOGA TRADE MISSIONS TO SYRIA

REF: (A) STATE 219712; (B) BAGHDAD 0956 (C) STATE  
210413

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES MARYLAND DECISION (REF A) TO INCLUDE DAMASCUS IN ITS ITINERARY JAN 15-19. MISSION SHOULD NOTE FRIDAY, JAN 16 IS MUSLIM SABBATH AND ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED. LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING SOONEST LIST OF INDIVIDUAL FIRMS AND PRODUCT LINES.

2. WE UNDERSTAND PENNSYLVANIA WILL INCLUDE SYRIA IN ITS MIDDLE EAST MISSION SOMETIME JANUARY, 1976. OUR LAST CONTACT WAS WITH PENNSYLVANIA MISSION ADVANCE MAN MICHEL DEMAUREX (BASED GENEVA) JULY 31. REQUEST USDOC CONTACT J. THOMAS ROGERS, DIRECTOR BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, HARRISBURG, PA., AS TO MISSION'S STATUS AND ALERT THEM OF POSSIBLE  
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DATE CONFLICT WITH MARYLAND GROUP.

3. REQUEST STATE OF INDIANA INCLUDE DAMASCUS IN ITS PROPOSED MIDDLE EAST TRADE MISSION, EARLY MARCH, 1976 (REFTEL C). CONCENTRATION ON HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION IDEALLY SUITED FOR SYRIA, WHICH IS EXPERIENCING UNPRECEDENTED CONSTRUCTION BOOM. WELL-FINANCED UPCOMING FIVE YEAR PLAN WILL CONTINUE EMPHASIS ON CONSTRUCTION, BUT SYRIA BADLY NEEDS FOREIGN MATERIALS AND EXPERTISE. INDIANA FIRMS COULD DO GOOD BUSINESS HERE. REQUEST USDOC INFORM INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE OF OUR INTEREST, AND SEND US NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESPONSIBLE STATE OFFICIAL SO WE MAY FOLLOW UP.

4. WE UNDERSTAND STATE OF TEXAS SENDING MISSION TO IRAQ, IRAN, SAUDIA ARABIA, MAY, 1976 (REFTEL B; DAMASCUS DID NOT RECEIVE STATE 209832 ANNOUNCING THIS MISSION). MISSION THEME OF AGRIBUSINESS, FOOD PROCESSING, IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, CONSTRUCTION, OIL DRILLING, AND PETROCHEMICALS HIT PRECISELY MAJOR THEMES OF CURRENT SYRIAN DEVELOPMENT PLANS. SYRIA ANXIOUS FOR US PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY, SYRIAN TECHNICIANS HAVE EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH EASTERN EUROPEANS WHO HAVE HITHERTO DOMINATED PETROLEUM EXPLORATION HERE. IN MAJOR POLICY BREAK, SARG RECENTLY AWARDED OFFSHORE EXPLORATION CONTRACT TO US FIRM, TRIPCO; SARG PETROLEUM OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THEY WOULD LIKE MORE US BIDDERS ON DRILLING AND EQUIPMENT TENDERS. SARG ALSO MAKING MAJOR EFFORT TO EXPAND IRRIGATED LAND AREA; PROJECTS CENTER AROUND GIANT EUPHRATES RIVER DAM. USAID INTERESTED IN FINANCING SOME OF THESE IRRIGATION AND LAND RECLAMATION PROJECTS IN FY1976 AND/OR FY 1977, CERTAIN OTHERS ALREADY BACKED BY IBRD. IN SHORT, THERE ARE ABUNDANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEXAS FIRMS IN SYRIA ALONG LINES INCLUDED IN MISSION. USDOC: PLEASE INFORM TEXAS OF OUR INTEREST AND SEND US NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESPONSIBLE STATE OFFICIAL.  
MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** BEXP, SY  
**To:** STATE COM  
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